ABSTRACT

In a hotel or short-term office environment, a guest is provided with a connection to a local area network (LAN). A printer, also attached to the LAN, allows the guest to make hard copies of documents. Using a browser, the guest is directed to a web site from which may be downloaded an authentication code to allow access to the printer, and a print driver and a port monitor to allow operation of the printer. Following installation of the downloaded software, any print job sent by the laptop to a print server associated with the printer includes the authentication code. Upon receipt of the authentication code, the print server authenticates the print job, and sends it to the printer located within the hotel room.

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